



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

December 7, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS IN THE MATTER OF THE VANDALISM AND THEFT OF STATUES AT THE LANCASTER CEMETERY

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in amount of \$10,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to the individual who provided information to the Sheriff's Department which led to the arrest and conviction of Christian Humphreys, the person responsible for the vandalism and theft of three "angel" statues from the Angel Walk area on the grounds of the Lancaster Cemetery.

### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

At the Angel Walk area on the grounds of the Lancaster Cemetery, between the hours of 4:30 p.m. on December 30, 2003 and 8:00 a.m. on December 31, 2003 three angels were stolen and one was left broken.

On January 6, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board established a \$10,000 reward fund for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft and vandalism of the angels from the Angel Walk area on the grounds of the Lancaster Cemetery.

On March 23, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board extended the period to provide information to law enforcement to encourage individuals to provide information on the case. It was during this period that an individual came forward with information that was provided to the Sheriff's Department which led to the arrest and conviction of Christian Humphreys.

On Tuesday, June 29, 2004, an individual contacted Ms. Barbara Little, the Lancaster Cemetery District Manager, and provided information and the identity of Christian Humphreys whom the individual suspected of committing this crime.

On Wednesday, June 30, 2004, Ms. Little contacted Mr. Dennis Davenport, Acting City Manager of the City of Lancaster, who then provided the Sheriff's Department with the name of the individual who had information relative to this case. At that point, investigators contacted the individual and conducted an extensive interview, during which time the individual, in addition to providing the identity and address of Christian Humphreys, also provided the name of another individual who had information about the case.

The Sheriff's Department obtained and served a search warrant at the residence of Christian Humphreys on June 30, 2004 and recovered two of the stolen statues. Christian Humphreys was arrested on July 1, 2004 at the Lancaster Sheriff Station in connection with the case. During the interview of Christian Humphreys he admitted to the vandalism and theft at the Cemetery.

On July 6, 2004, Christian Humphreys appeared in court and upon taking a deal from the District Attorney was sentenced to 27 days in County Jail and 3 years probation for his crime.

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code which established procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

Two claims were filed for the \$10,000 reward offered by your Board, one of which was filed by the Lancaster Cemetery District Manager on behalf of a claimant. Both claimants wish to remain anonymous.

A Reward Committee made up of individuals representing the Sheriff, the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claims filed for the reward funds. The Committee has recommended that \$10,000 be awarded solely to the individual whose claim was filed by the Lancaster Cemetery District Manager. The second claim was denied by the Reward Committee because the individual did not provide investigators with any additional information which would have implicated Christian Humphreys in the case.

Therefore, in accordance with provisions of the County Code, your Board must now consider the recommendation of the Reward Committee and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement which could lead to the arrest and conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life of all citizens.

#### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$2,000 from each member's account.

#### FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards.

A notice of the reward was published in the Antelope Valley Press. In addition, the reward notice was posted on the Board of Supervisors' web site. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money originally expired on April 5, 2004 and was subsequently extended by Board Order No. 29-E of March 23, 2004 to encourage persons with any information to come forward.



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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County services.

Respectfully submitted,



VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Reward letter regarding Angel Walk at Lancaster Cemetery

c: District Attorney  
Sheriff  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller